

Art Unit: \*\*\*

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Claim 1 is canceled

2. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim (1) 15, [characterized in that] wherein the laminated packaging material contains a paper layer.

3. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim (1) 15, [characterized in that] wherein the transverse ultrasonic sealing is [an] ultrasonic sealing with a fluid.

4. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim (1) 15, [characterized in that] wherein a length of [a] the center portion, in the longitudinal direction of the [action] pressing face of the opposing jaw [, formed into the action face narrower than both end portions] is at least [larger] longer than a length of a longitudinally sealed three-ply portion of the tubular laminated packaging material under a pressed state.

5. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim (1) 15, [characterized in that] wherein a width of [the narrow action face of] the center portion [in longitudinal direction] is  $1/4$  to  $1/2$  of a width of [an action] the pressing face [in the] at both end portions.

6. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim (1) 15, [characterized in that] wherein the narrow [action face of the] center portion [in longitudinal direction] has a recess formed along a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the [action] pressing face.

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7. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim 6, [characterized in that] wherein the formed recess is a recess having an arc shape in section.

8. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim {1} 15, [characterized in that] further comprising sealing tape dispensing means wherein, when the laminated packaging material is formed into a tubular form, {the tubular laminated packaging material is} the [tubular] laminated packaging material is formed into the tubular form by using [a] sealing tape.

Claim 9 –14 are canceled

--15. An ultrasonic sealing apparatus, in which a laminated packaging material containing at least a thermoplastic resin layer is formed into a tubular form and the tubular laminated packaging material is transversely ultrasonically sealed, said ultrasonic sealing apparatus comprising:

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